

ASSOCIATION INDUSTRY 4.0 AUSTRIA – THE PLATFORM FOR SMART PRODUCTION

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The Platform Industry 4.0 is a **membership-based non-profit association** founded in 2015.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

- Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology
In alphabetical order:
 - Association for the Electrical and Electronics Industries
 - Association of Metaltechnology Industries
 - Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour
 - Austrian Trade Union for Production Workers
 - Federation of Austrian Industries

OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE PLATFORM

The **core task** of the Platform Industry 4.0 is to **facilitate the implementation of Industry 4.0** and to **promote cooperation between relevant stakeholders**. Thus, a **highly innovative industrial production** is created, secured and the **quality of employment increased**.

Industry 4.0 is a challenge for society as a whole that can only be addressed in the best possible way through cooperation of all relevant stakeholders.

- We provide knowledge and services about Industry 4.0
- We accompany processes of change driven by digitization
- We jointly develop strategies for making the best use of Industry 4.0, for companies and employees
- We connect regional, national and international policy makers, industry, academia and employers' and employees' organizations
- We define fields of action and advise political decision-makers

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all organizations operating in the field of Industry 4.0.

These include companies, academic institutions, research institutions, employers' and employees' representatives, NGOs, and other leading institutions.

Contact us at office@plattformindustrie40.at and benefit through our network!

EXPERT GROUPS OF THE PLATFORM

About 600 experts are involved in the work on relevant and current Industry 4.0 topics.

The most important drivers of Industrie 4.0 are dealt with in nine defined topics, our expert groups. These are composed of high-ranking experts from their respective fields. The strength of the platform lies in the balanced mix of experts with scientific experience and extensive practical and operational experience.



PUBLICATIONS

This is a selection of our publications (only available in German). These are created by active involvement of our network of experts. All publications and further information can be found at: www.plattformindustrie40.at/services



CYBER-SECURITY GUIDE FOR MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

On the basis of concrete examples, an overview of cyber security in the area of manufacturing is being provided. The guide points to the importance of awareness for cyber security for a manufacturing company with a focus on operational technology (OT).



NORMS AND STANDARDS

The compass provides a compact overview of the available and currently drafted norms and standards affecting Industry 4.0. A comprehensive catalogue is available on our website.



NEW WORK 4.0

Here you find a loose-leaf collection of continuously extended information and developments on relevant topics around change of work through digitization.

The content is developed in workshops by and with our experts and is published on an ongoing basis.



RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION IN INDUSTRY 4.0

This paper outlines which research fields represent a particularly high potential for Austria and how to address companies' technological and financial needs even more accurately.



SUCCESS FACTORS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL QUALIFICATION CLUSTERS

Regional qualification clusters connect all relevant stakeholders in a region to better meet increasing competence and qualification requirements and to improve training to be tailored to regional needs.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Five good reasons to join the Platform Industry 4.0 – written by our members:

NETWORK & EXCHANGE

The platform enables a **qualitative exchange of experience** across countries, industries and organizations on forward-looking topics. The excellent networking of **around 600 experts** from different disciplines results in promising opportunities for **cooperation**, sometimes with considerable time and labour savings.

DRIVING FORCE & COMPETENCE

The cooperation and exchange in the **expert groups**, the participation in **workshops**, and the **sharing of expertise** contribute to gaining **new perspectives** and broadening your horizons. The work of the platform impresses with its **bundling of competencies**, which are **subject-oriented** and **interdisciplinary**. The **concretization of the topics** and the **neutral access** not only make possible to promote important topics of digitalization, but also to support the best possible interaction between technology and people.

VISIBILITY

The Platform Industry 4.0 has created a **communications platform** in its four years of existence providing **high visibility** in the Austrian – but also international – industrial ecosystem. The **joint work in expert groups** and various cooperations result in a **high advertising effect for members**. The Competence Compass is a good purpose to **make competences visible**, also **outside the network**.

CONSOLIDATION OF INTERESTS

The composition of the association and the diversity of the platform, consisting of employers' and employees' representatives, public research organisations, universities and universities of applied sciences, as well as leading Industry 4.0 companies enable an **extraordinary interdisciplinary approach**. The **openness in the discussion, respect** and **mutual trust** are unique and lead to a **results-oriented exchange**. The association succeeds as an „honest broker“ **acting neutrally** and **pursuing no interests**.

VOICE

The platform is a **community of interests** that acts as a **voice for policy makers & administration** and other **scientific institutions** operating in a **trusting and professional manner**. An important role is also to bring **information from policy makers to members!**

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

HOW DOES THE
FUTURE OF WORK
LOOK LIKE?

HOW DO I KNOW
WHICH TECHNOLOGICAL
TRENDS I HAVE TO
FOLLOW?

HOW DO I
CHANGE MY
BUSINESS MODEL
SUSTAINABLY?

HOW AND WITH
WHICH TOOLS DO I
HAVE TO TRAIN MY
EMPLOYEES?

HOW DO I
MAKE SURE MY
ORGANIZATION
IS SECURE?

HOW HAVE
OTHERS DEALT WITH
THESE CHALLENGES?

THE „HOW“ WE ANSWER TOGETHER!

Contact us without obligation under office@plattformindustrie40.at and we discuss your options.

CONTACT

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Basic Information

- **Country Name:** Austria
- **Policy Publication Year:** 2023
- **Socio-Economic Context:** Austria is a high-income country with a well-developed economy characterized by a strong industrial sector, particularly in machinery, electronics, and automotive manufacturing. The country has a robust social welfare system, high living standards, and a skilled workforce. Austria's economy is heavily influenced by its integration into the European Union, which facilitates trade and investment. However, it faces challenges such as adapting to digital transformation and maintaining competitiveness in the global market.

- **Policy Type:** Industry 4.0 Strategy

1. Key Objectives and Strategies in the Policy

- **Key Objectives:**
 - Facilitate the implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies to enhance industrial production.
 - Promote cooperation among stakeholders in the industrial ecosystem.
 - Increase the quality of employment and

ensure innovative industrial production.

- **Strategies:**

- **Knowledge and Services:** Provide knowledge and services related to Industry 4.0, including workshops and expert groups.

- **Change Management:** Accompany processes of change driven by digitization.

- **Strategic Development:** Collaborate with stakeholders to develop strategies for effective utilization of Industry 4.0.

- **Networking:** Connect regional, national, and international policymakers, industry, academia, and organizations.

- **Fields of Action:** Define fields of action and advise political decision-makers on best practices.

- **Target Sectors:** The policy targets various sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, smart business models, and cybersecurity.

2. Comparative Analysis with

Socio-Economic Countries

Similar Socio-Economic Countries

(e.g., India and Bangladesh)

- **Objectives and Strategies:**

- Similar emphasis on fostering innovation and digital transformation.

- Differences in funding mechanisms, with Austria leveraging established industrial networks compared to India's focus on public-private partnerships and government-led initiatives.

- **Priorities and Funding:**

- Austria's strategy is supported by a well-established industrial base, whereas India focuses on attracting foreign investment and building a local tech ecosystem.

- **Approaches and Implementation:**

- Austria's collaborative approach with a strong emphasis on expert involvement contrasts with India's more hierarchical government-led initiatives.

Higher-Income Countries (e.g., United States)

- **Objectives and Strategies:**

- The U.S. emphasizes a broader range of technologies, including AI, while Austria focuses specifically on Industry 4.0.

- **Priorities and Funding:**

- The U.S. allocates substantial federal funding for R&D, while Austria relies on industry partnerships and EU funding.

- **Approaches and Implementation:**

- The U.S. employs a more decentralized approach, allowing states and private sectors to drive innovation, whereas Austria's strategy is more centralized and collaborative.

Lower-Income Countries (e.g., Vietnam)

- **Objectives and Strategies:**

- Vietnam's strategy focuses on basic digital literacy and infrastructure development, while Austria targets advanced industrial applications.

- **Priorities and Funding:**

- Vietnam emphasizes low-cost, scalable solutions, whereas Austria's strategy is more about high-tech integration and advanced manufacturing.

- **Approaches and Implementation:**

- Vietnam utilizes a grassroots approach to technology adoption, while Austria's strategy leverages established industrial networks and expertise.

3. Gaps and Areas of Improvement

- **Benchmarking Against OECD Guidelines:**

- The policy could enhance its focus on ethical AI use and data privacy, aligning more closely with OECD recommendations.

- **Incorporation of Comparative**

Insights:**

- Austria could benefit from adopting more flexible funding mechanisms observed in higher-income countries, allowing for rapid adaptation to technological changes.
- **Ethical and Governance Frameworks:**
 - The policy should explicitly address data privacy, bias mitigation, and transparency, drawing from best practices in higher-income nations.
- **Inclusivity and Workforce Development:**
 - Ensure that marginalized communities are included in the workforce development initiatives, inspired by successful programs in lower-income countries.

4. Recommendations for Policy Improvement

- **Adopting Best Practices:**
 - Implement successful strategies from higher-income countries, such as establishing innovation hubs and funding research through competitive grants.
- **Enhancing Ethical Frameworks:**
 - Strengthen ethical guidelines around AI and data use, ensuring compliance with international standards.

- **Fostering International Cooperation:**

- Establish partnerships with other countries to share knowledge and best practices, particularly in areas like cybersecurity and ethical AI.

- **Resource Allocation and Funding**

- Mechanisms:

- Optimize funding strategies to include diverse sources, such as EU grants and private sector investments.

- **Scalable and Sustainable Approaches:**

- Develop scalable solutions that can be adapted to various industrial contexts, inspired by resource-efficient practices in lower-income countries.

5. Strengths and Innovative Approaches

- **Unique Strategies:**

- The policy's focus on a collaborative platform that brings together diverse stakeholders is a significant strength, fostering a community of practice that can lead to innovative solutions.

- **Forward-Thinking Approaches:**

- The establishment of expert groups to address specific Industry 4.0 challenges demonstrates an innovative approach to problem-solving, leveraging both scientific

and practical expertise.

Conclusion

Austria's Platform Industry 4.0 policy

presents a robust framework for advancing

industrial innovation while fostering

collaboration among stakeholders. By

addressing identified gaps and incorporating

best practices from global counterparts,

Austria can enhance its strategy's

effectiveness and adaptability, ensuring

sustainable growth and competitiveness in

the evolving digital landscape.